

**City of Aberdeen**  
**Business Meeting, Work Session**  
**September 16, 2013**

**Present:** Mayor Bennett, Councilwoman Landbeck, Councilwoman Young, and Councilman Garner

**Absent:** Councilwoman Elliott

**Also Present:** Douglas Miller, City Manager  
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development  
Doris Manner, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers by Mayor Bennett.

2. Matters of Immediate and Urgent Business - None

3. Work Session

a. Maryland Municipal League (MML) Legislative Priorities

Mr. Miller stated that the Mayor is the current Chairman of the MML Legislative Committee, a committee that reviews bills that affect the State's municipalities. As part of their function, the committee picks legislative priorities. The Mayor will make regular reports on this committee's activities. Their next meeting will be held in October during the MML Fall Conference at Solomon's Island, Calvert County.

For his first report, Mayor Bennett said that there were twelve legislative action requests (LARs) submitted to the Legislative Committee from different municipalities. The committee selected Highway User Revenues (HURs) and the committee plans to work toward reinstating full funding from the State during the legislative session. MML has worked on this for five years and this year a onetime grant of \$15.4 million was restored. Because of this, Aberdeen planned to use HUR money to begin street work. Another matter of concern to the Legislative Committee was the double taxation issue; however, it was decided to forgo this to a more appropriate time. Other legislative priorities were mostly for localized issues.

b. Annexation Agreement; Presbyterian Homes/Bosworth Annexation

Mr. Miller reviewed the annexation process and matters that must be worked out between the City and the County such as land use, zoning, and storm water. He noted that the County requested a traffic impact analysis. Additionally, there was inadequate fire flow for new development on the other side of I-95 which may necessitate the use of a water tower. The City would prefer to wait until the area is

developed to create a revenue stream through the impact fees in order to pay for the water tower. The City preferred not to store unused water to avoid waste and flushing the unused water into the environment.

Councilwoman Young favored the traffic impact analysis and wanted the water storage paid by the developer and not the Aberdeen citizens. Mr. Miller stated that, theoretically, the connection fees charged to all new development would have paid for the related infrastructure. The problem was that the City could not project a consistent stream of collection fees in the weak economy.

Councilman Garner asked if connection fees were reduced for the past Presbyterian Home annexation. Mr. Miller said this organization would not have had to pay the portion for water storage because they would have built a water tower. They also would have received reduced fees and gotten recoupment from other development in the area.

Mayor Bennett added that this was standard procedure for a developer to handle these costs if a developer were to build a tower. Mr. Miller said that this would benefit the developer to do so since the City has three to five years to provide water and sewer.

Mr. Miller informed everyone that the City would soon be hosting statewide groups: Public Works Department of MML and Maryland Citizen Planners. He asked that the Council notify him or Ms. Grover of any other concerns pertaining to the annexation agreement.

c. Election Law Changes

Mr. Miller stated that the City is beginning to draft amendments to the Charter and Code on elections and reviewed the possible amendments in the Charter VII and the Code, Chapters 36 and 37. He and the Council discussed the terms of the Board of Elections, candidate filing, signatures needed for certificate of candidacy, ethics disclosure forms, campaign treasurer and contribution accountability, authority lines, reporting and disposition of contributions and expenditures, final reports, non-expended funds, use of campaign contributions, and posting of campaign signs. Council discussion followed.

d. Other Business

The Harford County Department of Aging and the City used funds to have the Senior Center painted. The painting was done by contractors. The City hopes to have the floor replaced in the future.

Mr. Miller said he was involved in a Rain Tax Task Force. The County Executive was considering repealing the Rain Tax for Harford County through County legislation.

Mr. Miller reported on Aberdeen's roadway repair needs and the plans to start with paving plans during 2014. Also, the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) amendments, plans, and financing will be discussed at the upcoming Council meetings.

Councilman Garner inquired the status of the B & O Railroad Station. Mr. Miller said the permit has been requested and is now in Bel Air for review. Mayor Bennett said this project has until the end of 2013. Councilwoman Young asked if there had been action by the state. Mr. Miller had no knowledge of this.

#### 4. Announcements

Mayor Bennett made the following announcements:

- September 17, 2013, Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
- September 18, 2013, Business Appreciation Day with the County Executive
- September 18, 2013 Ribbon Cutting for Upper Chesapeake Kaufman Cancer Center
- September 30, 2013, 7:00; Council Meeting
- October 7, 2013, 4:00; Business Meeting, Work Session
- October 8, 2013; Flu Shots at the Department of Public Works
- October 14, 2013, 4:00; Business Meeting, Work Session
- October 17 – 19, 2013, MML Legislative Conference, Solomon's Island
- October 21, 2013, 4:00; Business Meeting, Work Session
- October 28, 2013, 7:00; Council Meeting
- October 31, 2013, LGIT Annual Meeting in Annapolis

#### 5. Adjourn

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 4:55 p.m.